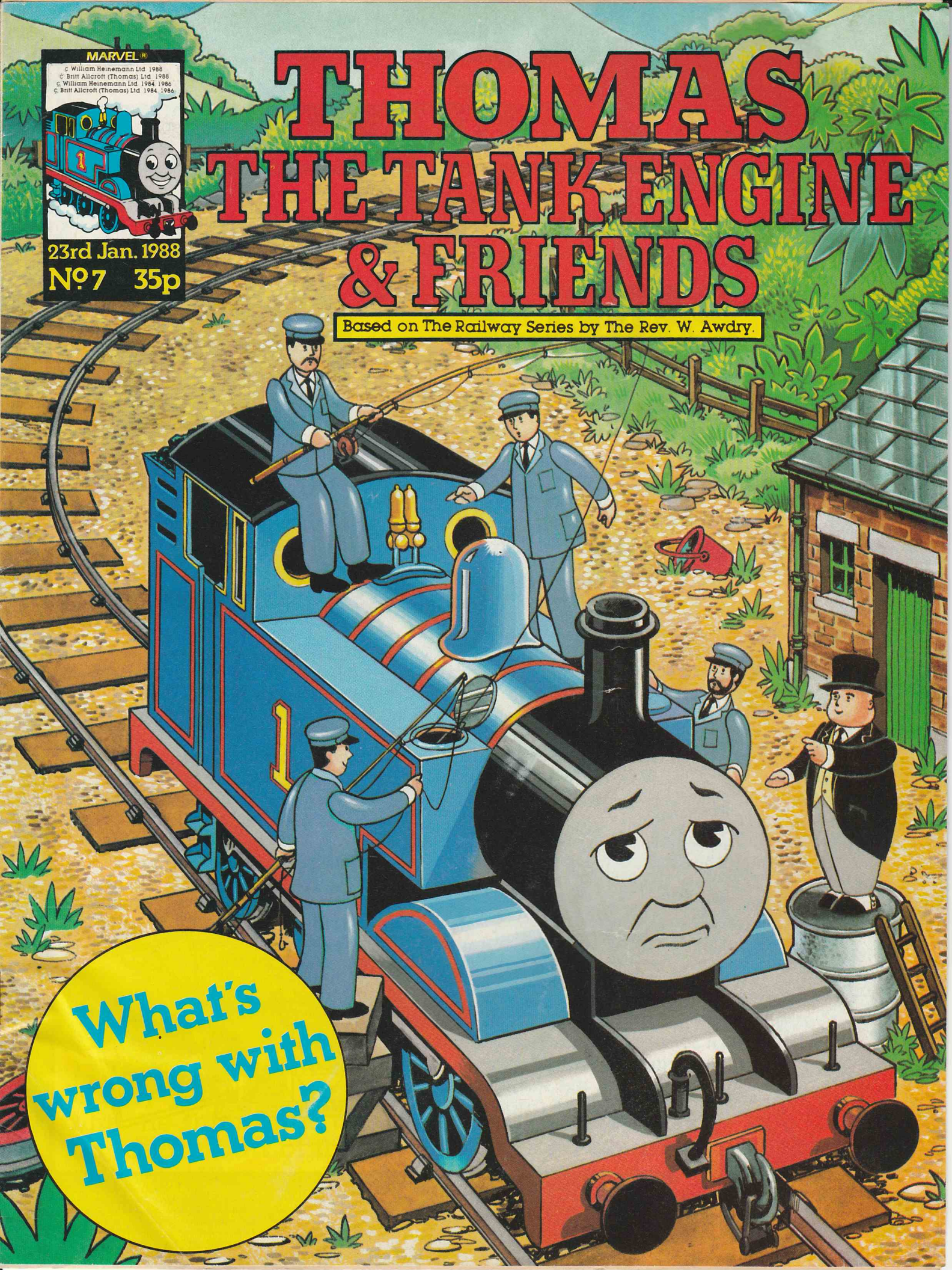
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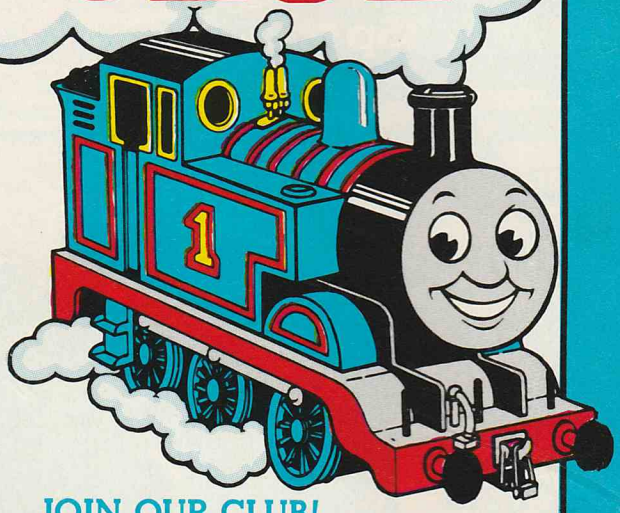
23rd Jan. 1988
No 7 35p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
What's wrong with Thomas?

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Peep! Peep! Hello! Have you heard about the time I left my guard behind? You can read the story which begins on the next page – and see just what a very silly engine I was. Also in this issue is the story about the day I went *fishing*. . . You don't believe me? Read on! Peep! Peep!

FACT FILE: Bertie the Bus

Bertie is a smart red bus, and he's one of Thomas's greatest friends! Bertie has a friendly grin and he is always happy to help the engines – just as long as they realise that roads can sometimes be just as useful as rails. In our next issue you can read about the day Bertie has a **race** with Thomas – make sure you do not miss it!

JOIN OUR CLUB!

Have you joined the **Thomas Club** yet? It's so easy and it's **free!** All you do is collect **3 tokens** like the one at the bottom of this page – there's one in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Send the tokens, together with a large, stamped addressed envelope (at least 21cm X 16cm) to: *The Thomas Club, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* You will be sent this splendid Club Pack!

Please allow 28 days delivery of your Club Pack.

EVERY ISSUE!

It costs £9.00 to have **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** delivered straight to your home every fortnight for a year – and you can become a member of the **Thomas Club** at the same time! For details turn to page 18.

Please allow 28 days delivery of your first issue.

THOMAS TOKEN

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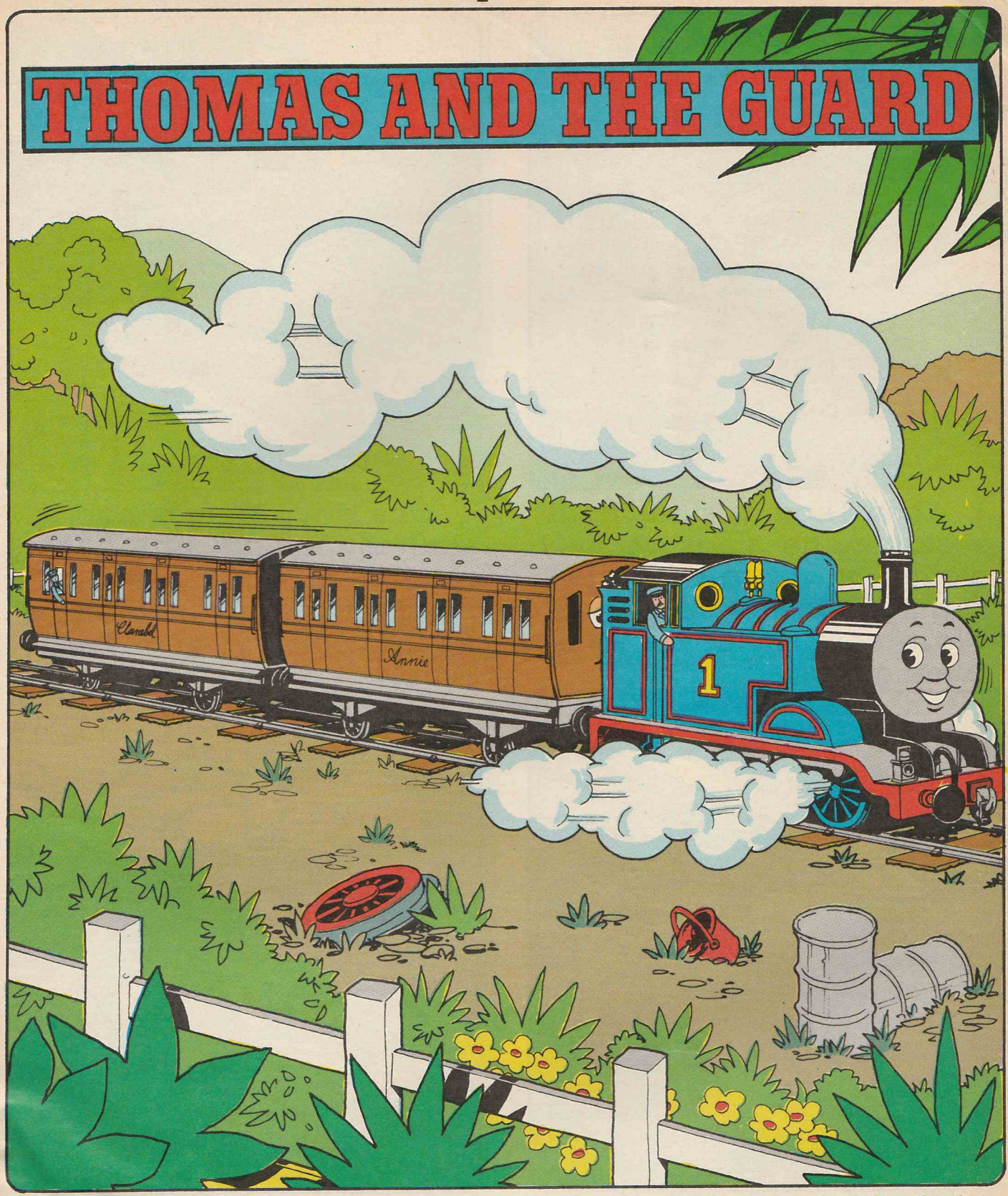
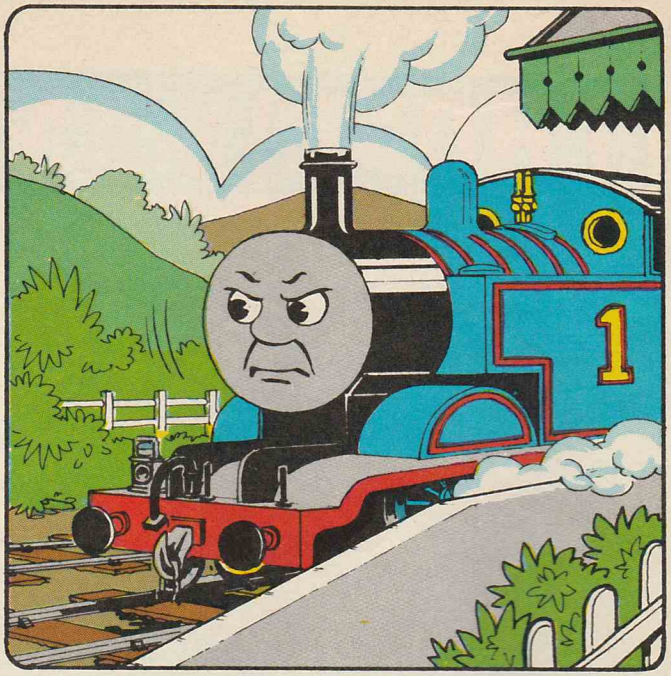
A listen and look story!



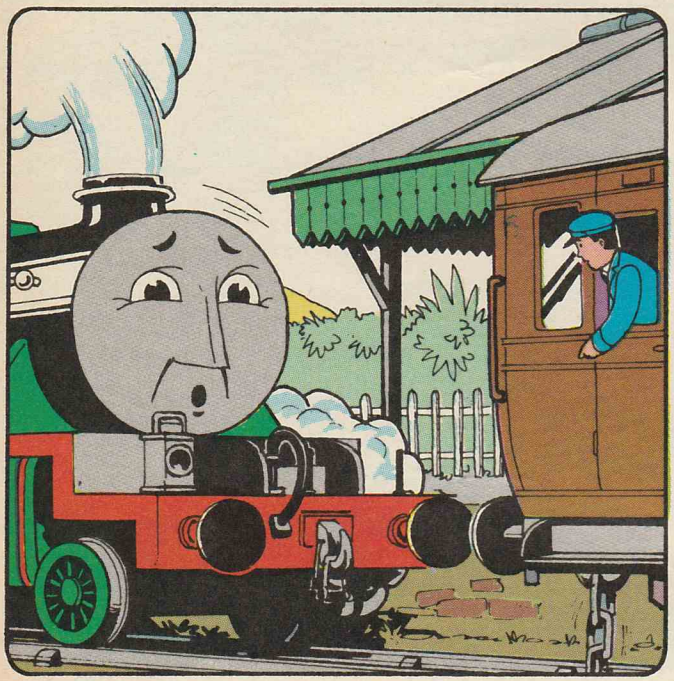
1. Thomas the Tank Engine is very proud of his branch line. He thinks it is the most important part of the whole railway. His coaches both agree with him.

2. Thomas is very fond of his two coaches. Annie can only take passengers, but Clarabel can take passengers, luggage and the guard as well.

3. When Thomas starts from a station he sings. "Come along, we're rather late," and the coaches sing back, "We're coming along, we're coming along."

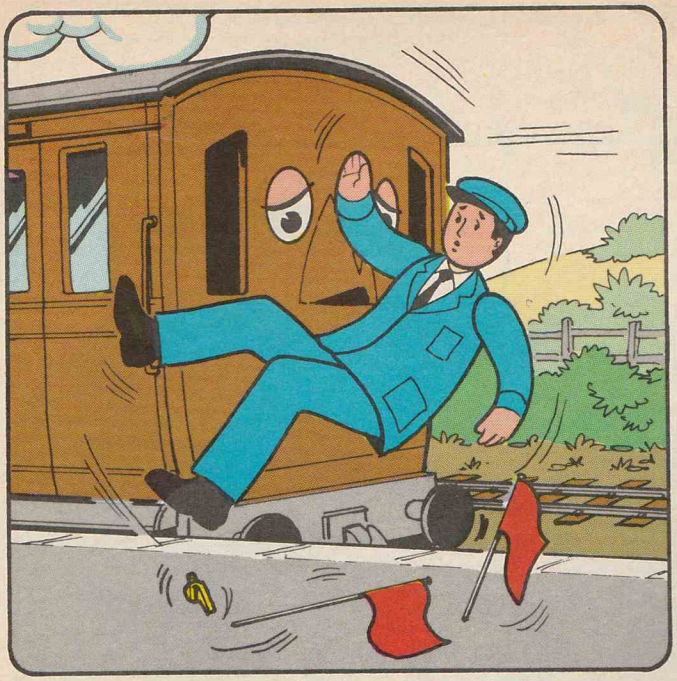


4. One day, Thomas had to wait for Henry's train. This made him very cross. "How can I run my line properly, if Henry is always late? Peep! Peep!"

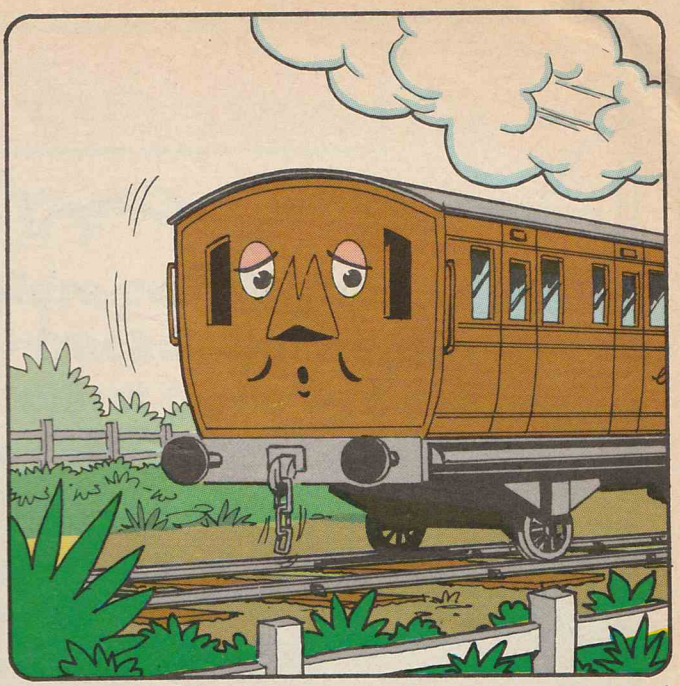


5. Thomas wanted to leave but he had to wait for the passengers on Henry's train. He whistled impatiently. At last Henry came. "What kept you?" asked Thomas.

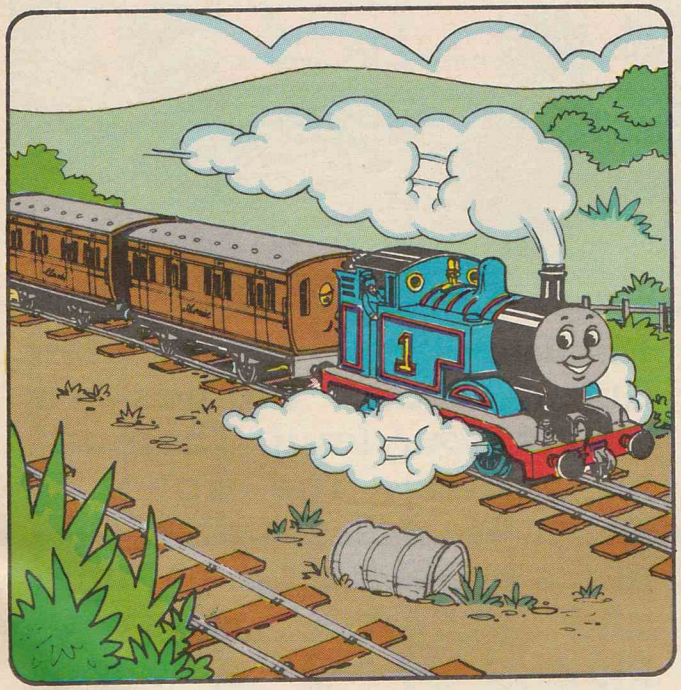
6. "Oh dear, my system is out of order," moaned Henry. "No-one understands my case. You don't know what I have to suffer." "Rubbish," said Thomas. "You're just slow."



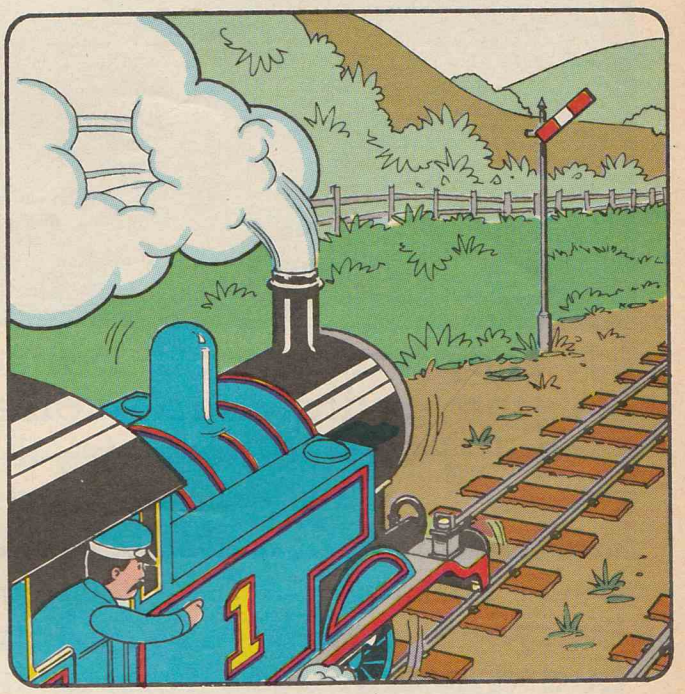
7. Then the guard blew his whistle. Thomas started so quickly that he left his guard behind. The guard waved his red flag to stop Thomas but he was well on his way.



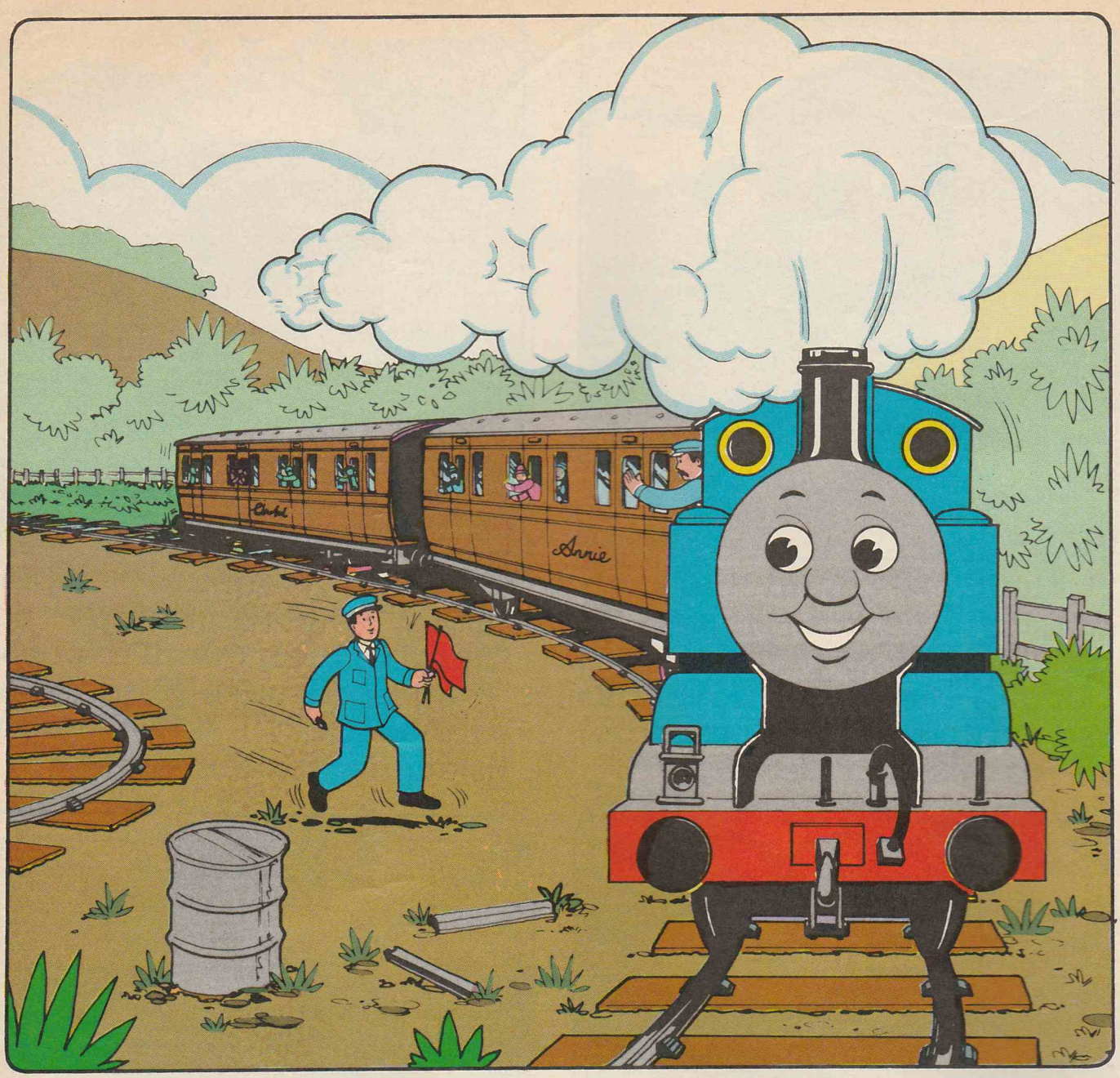
8. "Come along, come along," puffed Thomas, but Clarabel didn't want to come. "I've lost my nice guard," she sobbed, but Thomas wouldn't listen. He was hurrying.



9. Annie and Clarabel tried to put on their brakes, but they couldn't without the guard. "Where is our guard? Where is our guard?" they cried. Thomas didn't stop.



10. At last they came to a signal and Thomas had to stop. "What's the matter?" he asked. "I don't know," said his driver. "The guard will tell us in a minute."



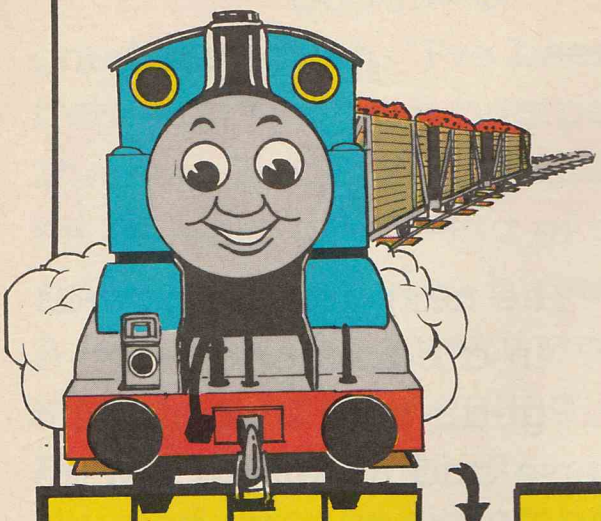
11. They waited and waited but the guard didn't come. "Peep! Peep! Where is the guard?" whistled Thomas. "We've left him behind," sobbed Annie and Clarabel. Everyone looked and saw the guard running as fast as he could along the line, with his flags in one hand and a whistle in the other. He looked hot and tired.

12. "I'm very sorry, Mr. Guard," said Thomas. "It wasn't your fault, Thomas," he replied. "The signal is down. We can go now. Let's make up for lost time." Annie and Clarabel were so pleased to have their guard again, that they sang to Thomas all the way. They reached the end of the line quicker than ever before.

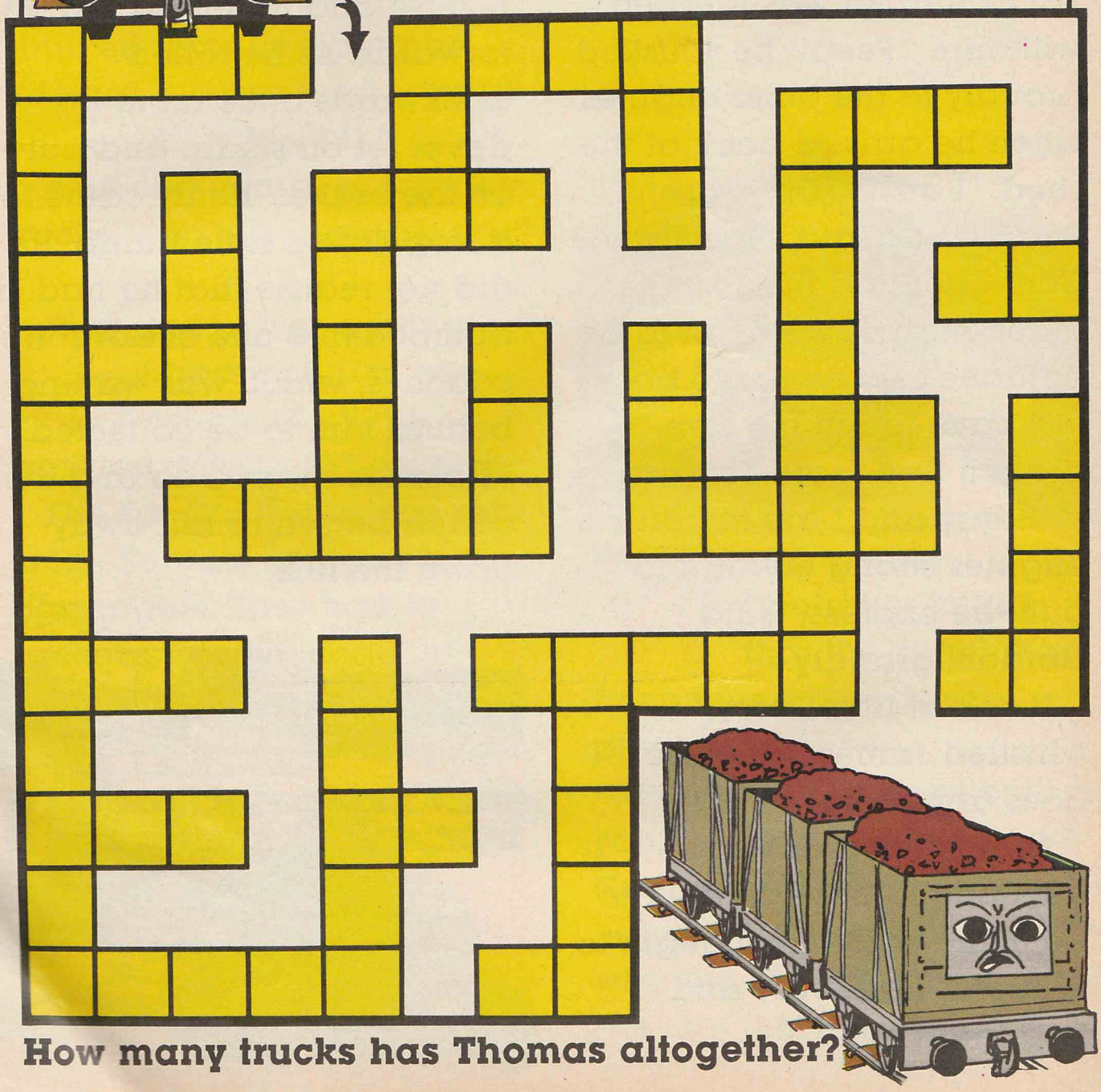
THE END

Next issue: Thomas and Bertie in a race!

PUZZLE TIME!



Here comes Thomas with 3 trucks! But he must collect three more. Use a pencil to find the way to the rest of the trucks.



How many trucks has Thomas altogether?

A read-aloud story!

The Lost Coach

James had been working hard. He had made the trucks behave and the Fat Controller was pleased with him. "Peep!" he whistled proudly to the other engines when he arrived back at the shed. "I am a Really Useful Engine," he said. "The Fat Controller told me so." The other engines were not to be outdone and began to boast.

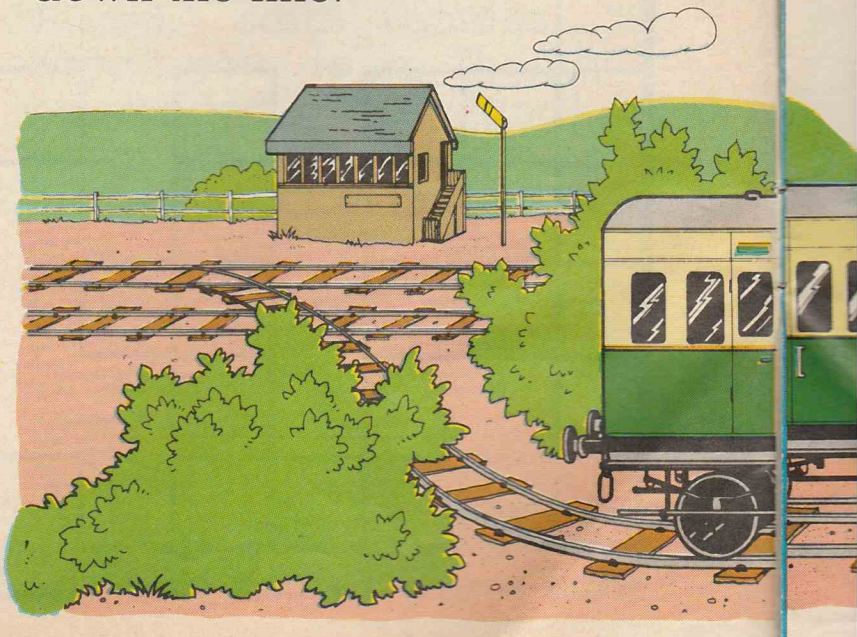
"I have to run my own branch line," said Thomas.

"Henry and I are the only engines strong enough to pull the express," said Gordon, grandly.

"Look at little Percy," whistled James. "He never goes anywhere."

Poor Percy didn't say anything. "I have to work to do in the yard," he thought to himself. "I am busy and important too."

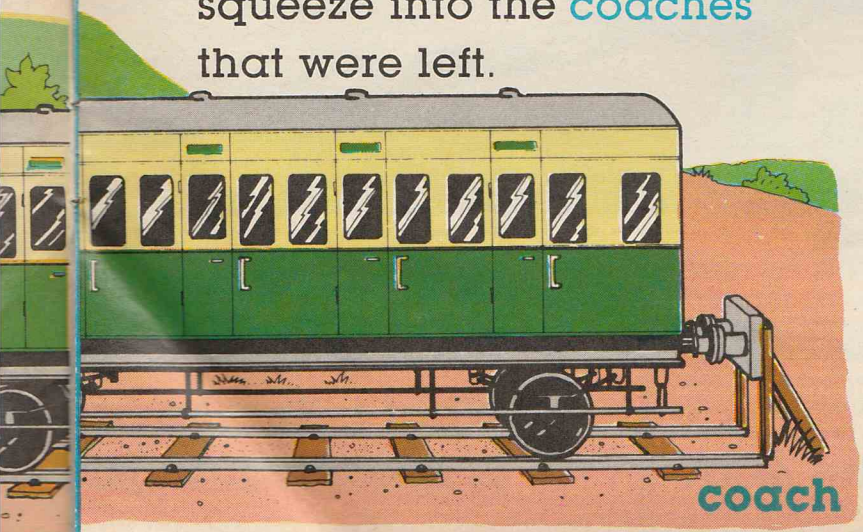
The next day, Henry was in a bad mood. His gears kept slipping into reverse and he would not go forwards. As he rolled backwards once more his driver let off steam and put on the brakes. Henry came to a stop with a little bump. He did not realise that he had bumped into one of Gordon's coaches, which was waiting behind him to be collected. Its brakes slipped off and the coach began to roll away down the line.



Oh, my goodness! Oh, my goodness!" cried the coach. "I've been bumped! I've been bumped!" The coach didn't stop until it hit a buffer at the end of a siding behind some bushes. A few moments later it was joined by some giggling trucks, who had been shunted into the siding by Edward. No one had noticed the coach. "Oh! Oh!" it cried, but no one heard, except the trucks, who just giggled.

Gordon was getting impatient. "I'm one coach short!" he whistled crossly. "Where is it?"

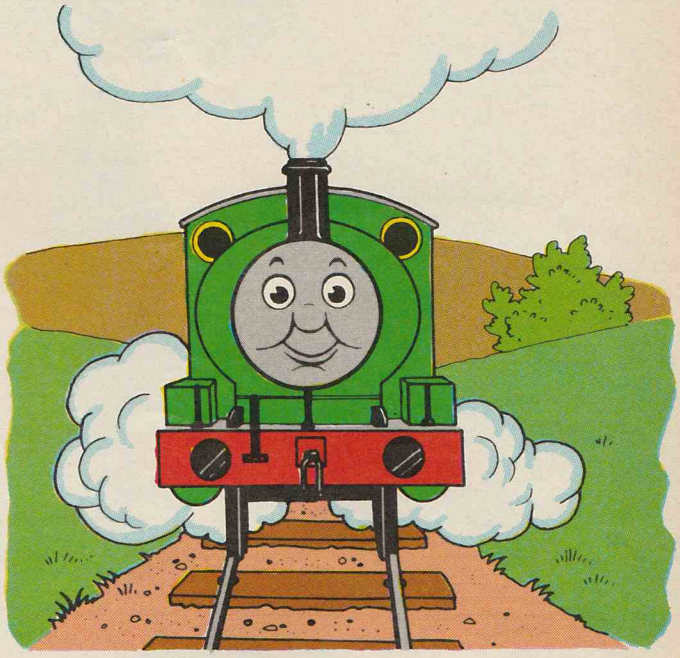
The Fat Controller was very cross. So were the passengers. They had to squeeze into the coaches that were left.



Later that afternoon, Percy was sent to collect the trucks from the siding. As he was being coupled up he noticed the coach.

"What are **you** doing here?" he asked in surprise.

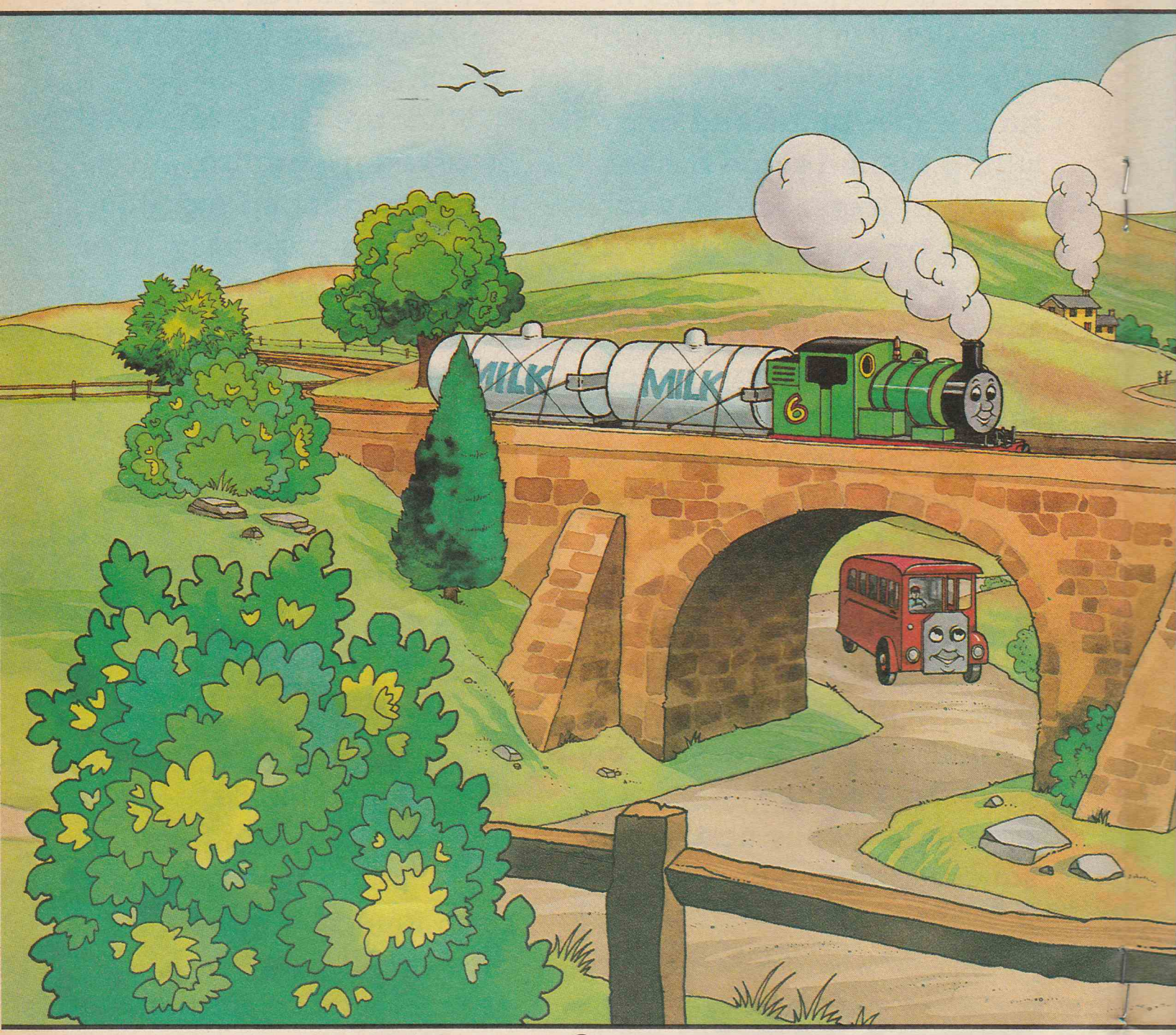
"Henry bumped me," the coach said miserably. "I couldn't help it."



When the Fat Controller heard that the coach had been found he was very pleased.

"Percy may be smaller than you," he said to James and Gordon and Henry, "But he is just as Useful, isn't he?" Percy whistled happily and puffed out into the yard. **THE END**

Over the bri



What is Percy pulling?

Who can you see under the bridge?

What colour is he?

How many people are with the dog?

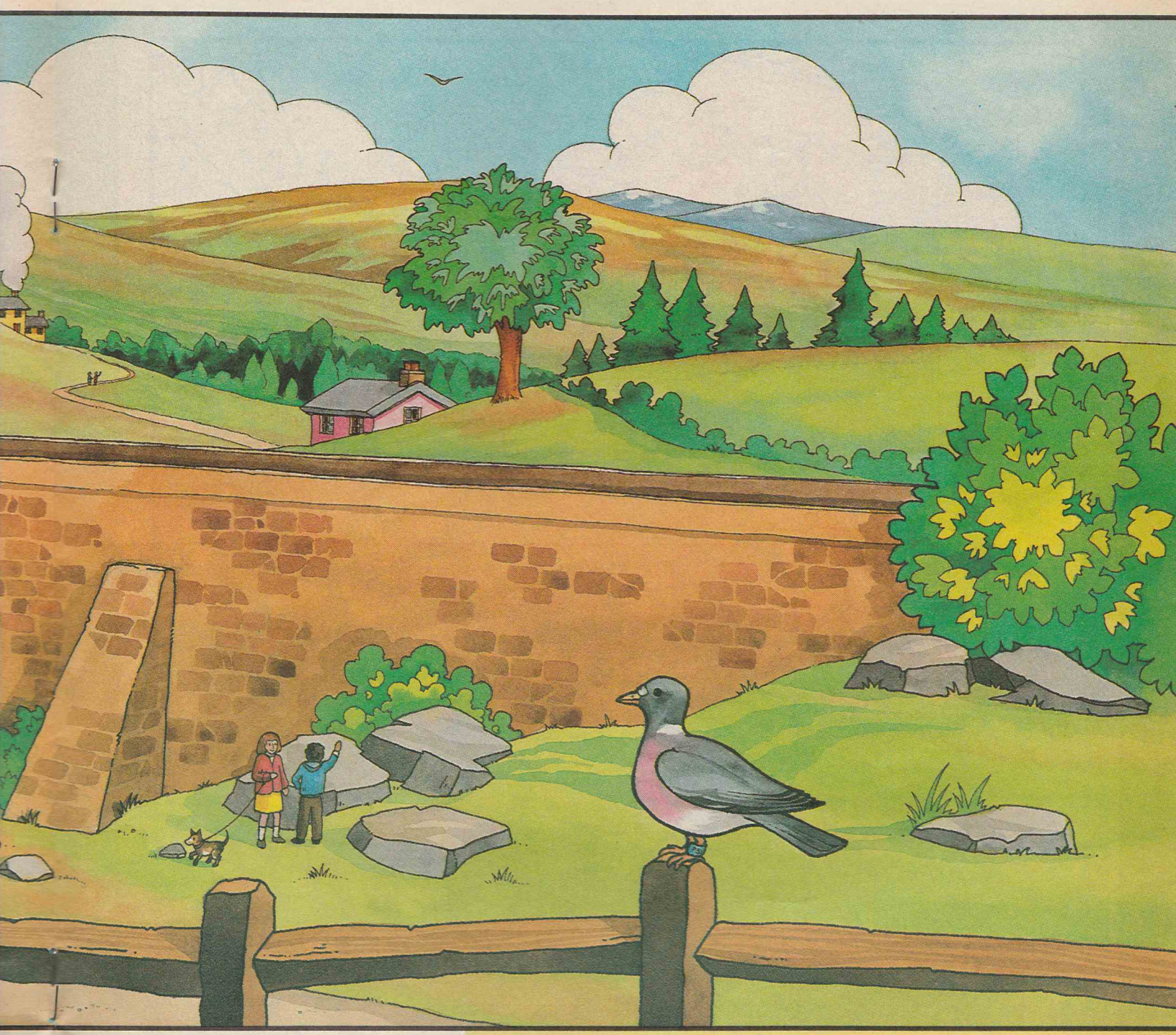
How many birds are

What is sitting on the

What is the bridge m

Is Bertie's road straig

ridge!



ls are flying?
on the fence?
dge made of?
straight or bendy?

Note for parents

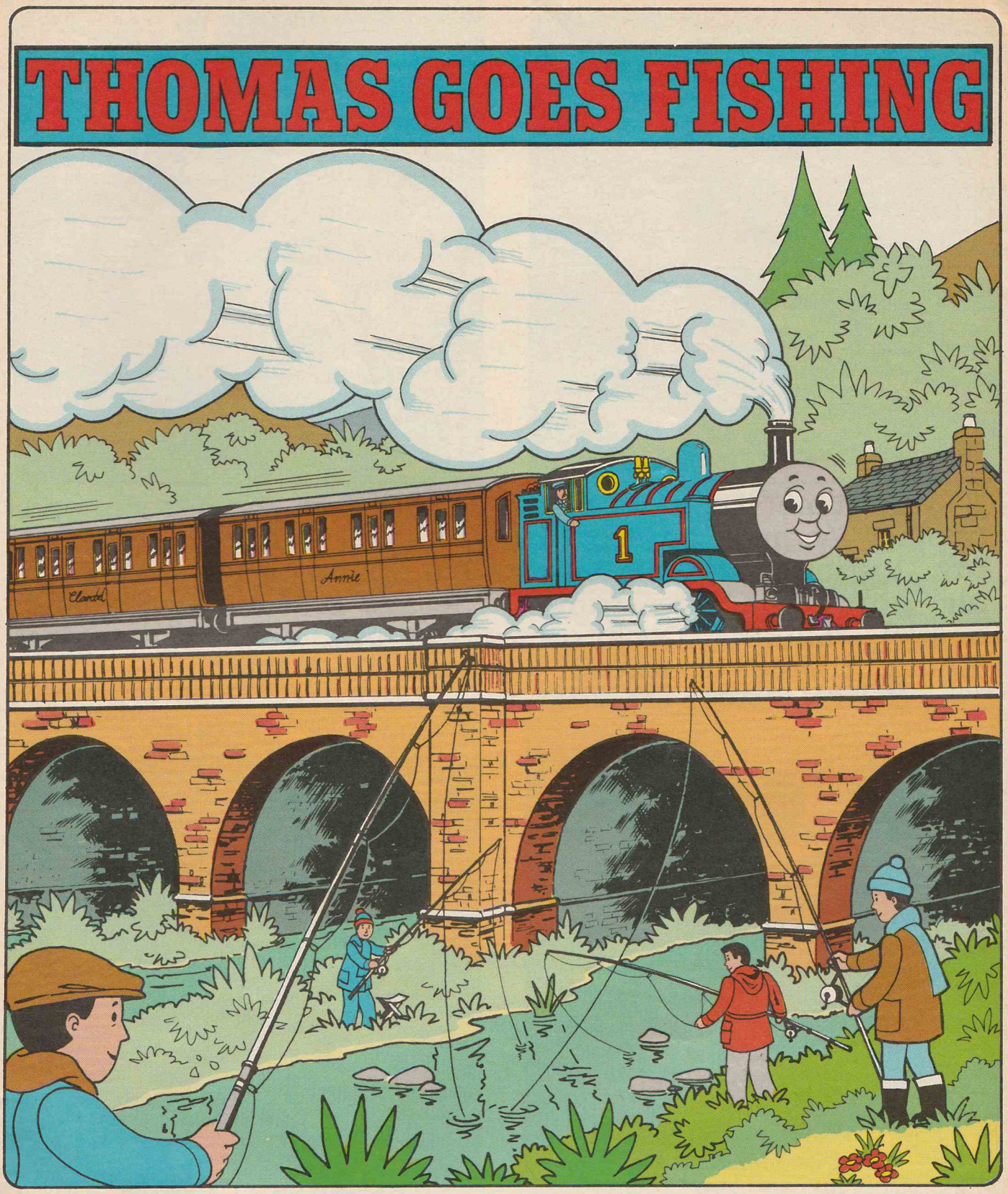
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: Behind the tall fir trees!

COLOURING TIME!

What is wrong with Thomas? Colour in this picture and then read the story which starts on the next page!

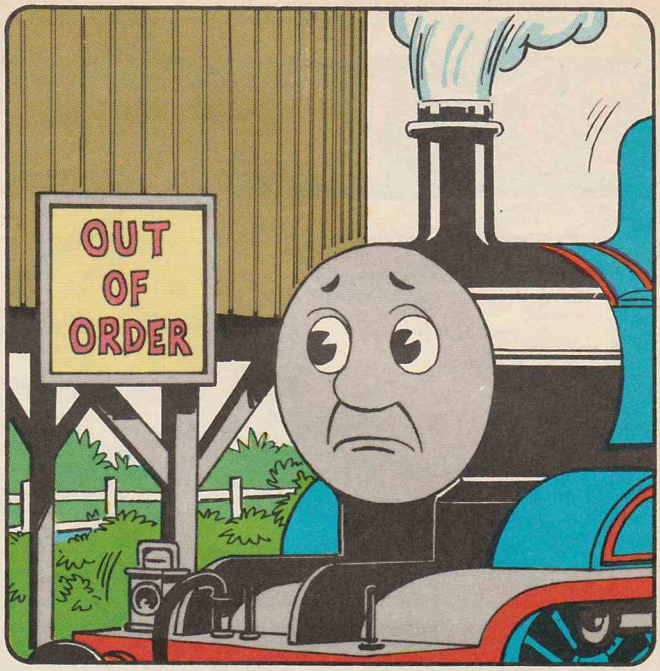
A listen and look story!



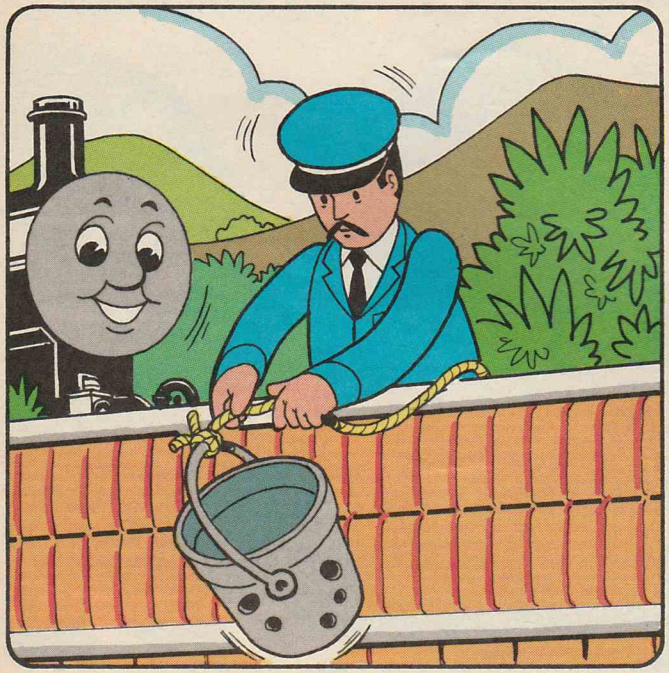
1. When Thomas puffed along his branch line, he always looked forward to seeing the river. As he rumbled over the bridge he would see people fishing.

2. Thomas often wanted to stay, but his driver said, "No. What do you think the Fat Controller would say if we were late?" But Thomas still wanted to stop there.

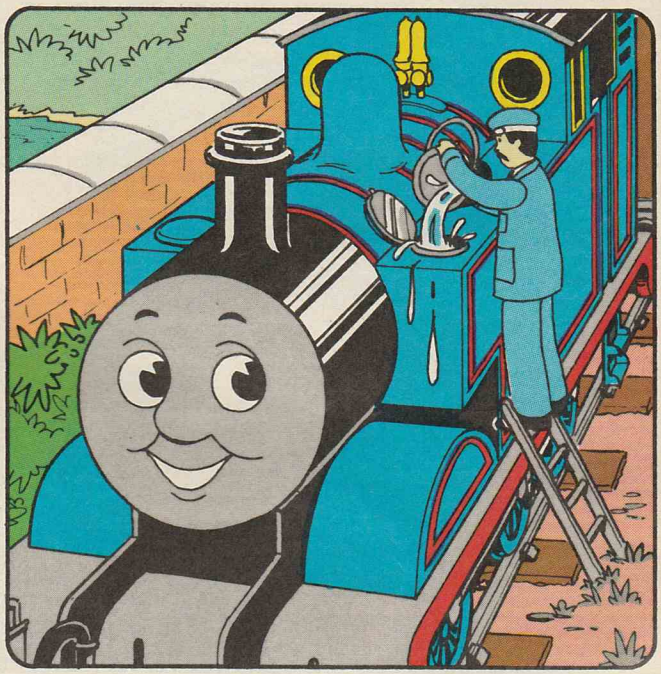
3. Every time Thomas met another engine, he would say, "I want to fish." But they all gave him the same answer, "Engines don't go fishing." Thomas disagreed.



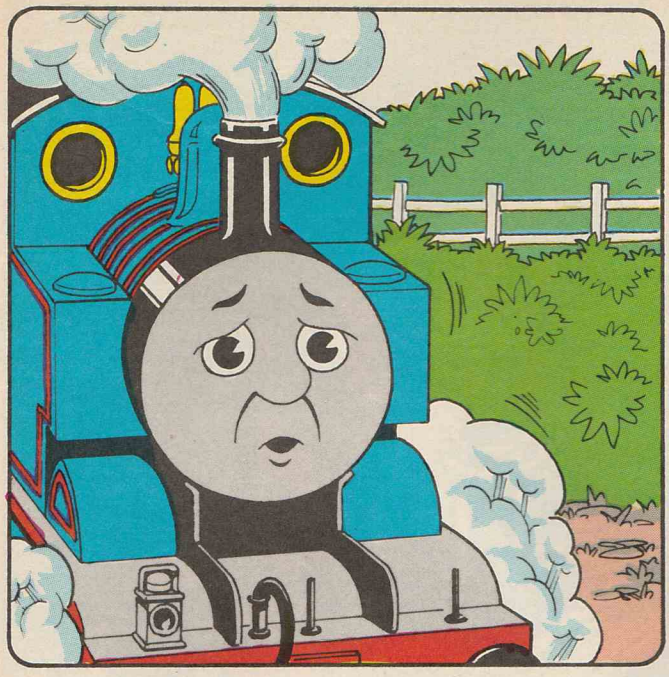
4. One day, Thomas stopped as usual to take in water at the station by the river. Then he saw a big notice saying "Out of Order." "Bother," he said, "I'm thirsty."



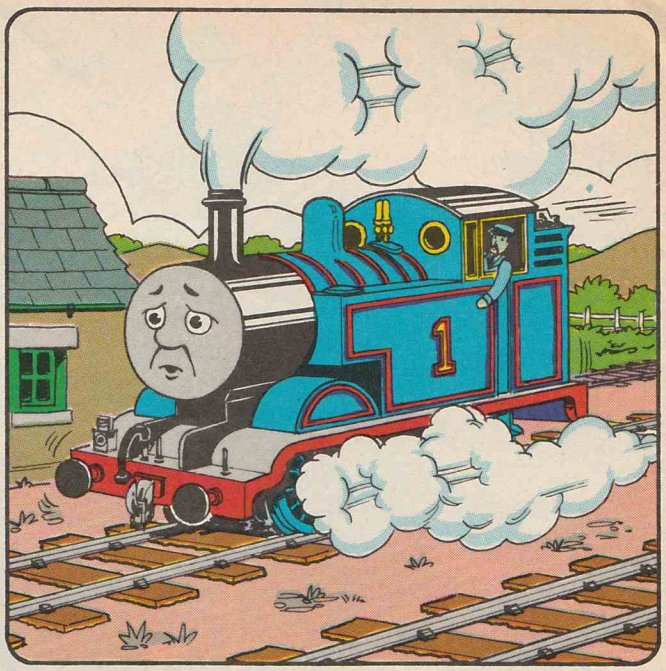
5. "We'll get some water from the river," said his driver. He found a bucket and some rope and went to the bridge. Then he let the bucket down into the water.



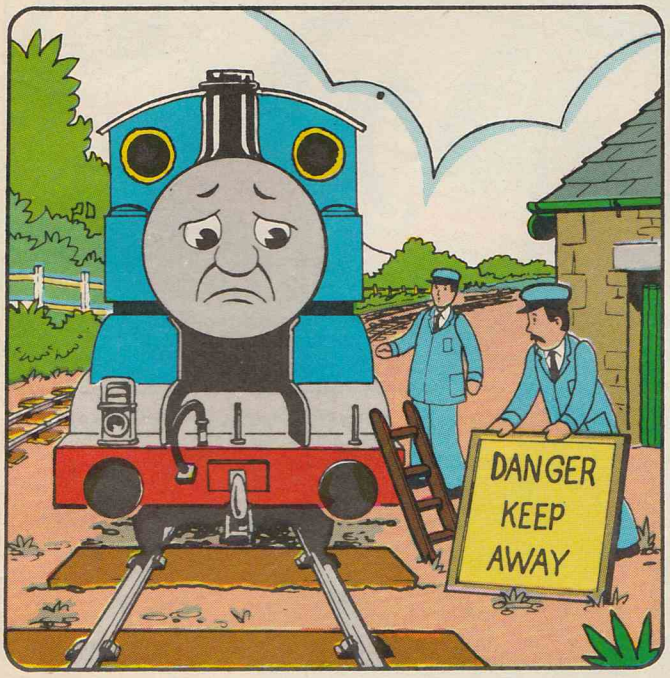
6. The bucket was old and had five holes. So they had to fill it, pull it up, and empty it into Thomas's tank as quickly as they could several times over.



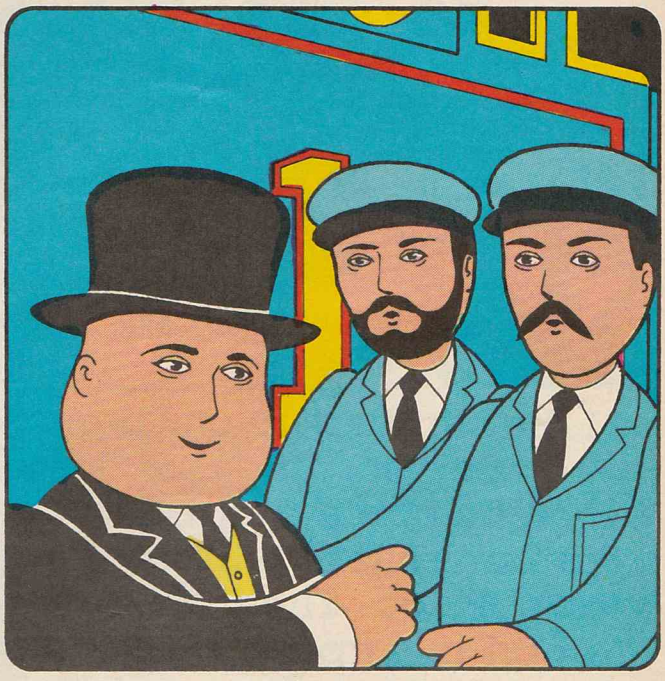
7. "That's good," puffed Thomas when they were finished. But then he began to feel a pain in his boiler and his safety valve began to hiss steam. Thomas groaned.



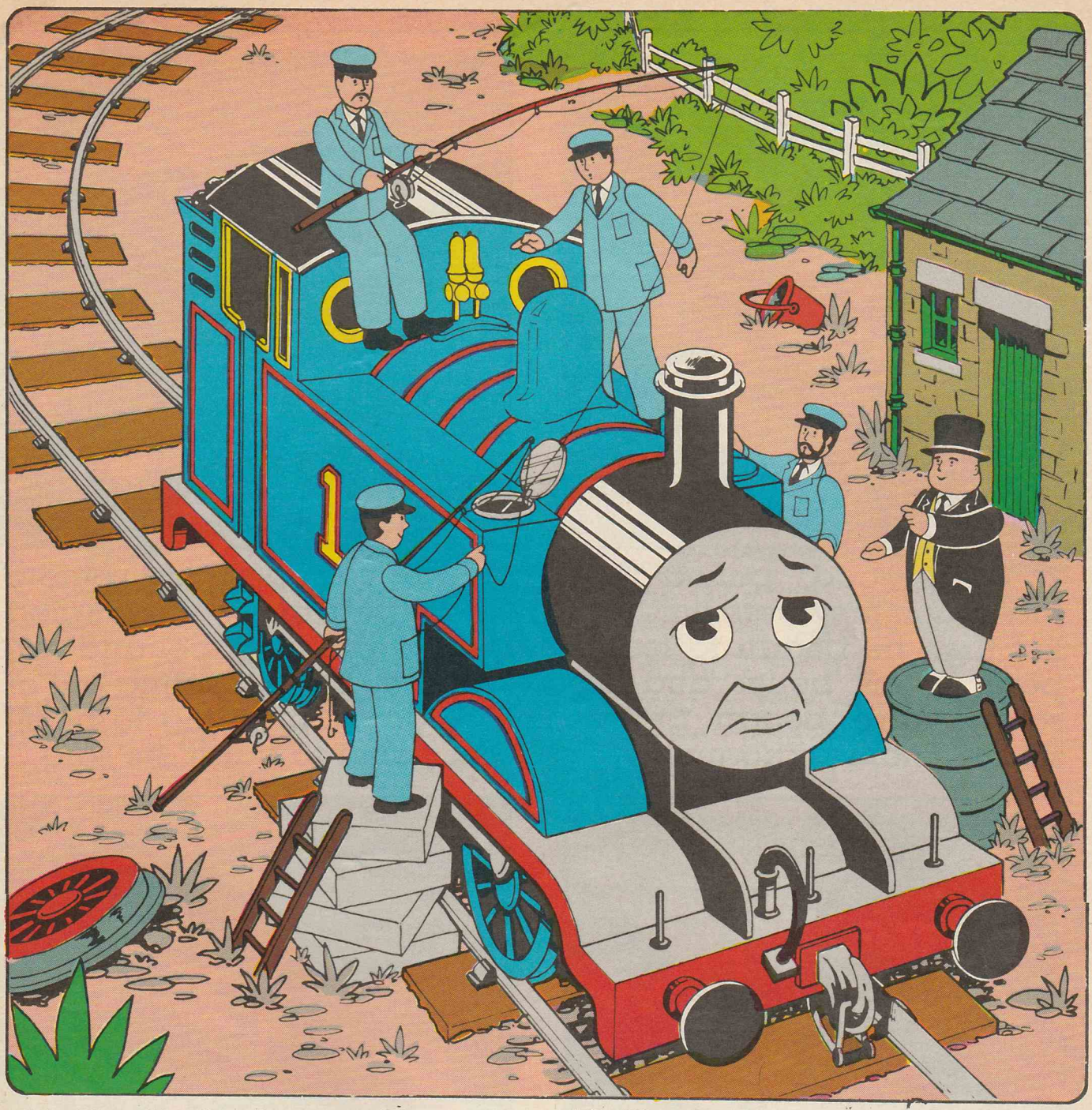
8. They stopped just before the last station, uncoupled Annie and Clarabel and ran Thomas on to a siding out of the way. "I'm going to burst! I'm going to burst!" he said.



9. The guard telephoned for an Engine Inspector and the driver found two notices which he hung on Thomas, in front and behind. "DANGER. KEEP AWAY," said the notices.



10. Soon the Inspector and the Fat Controller arrived. The driver told them what had happened. "So the feed pipe is blocked," said the Inspector. "I'll just look."

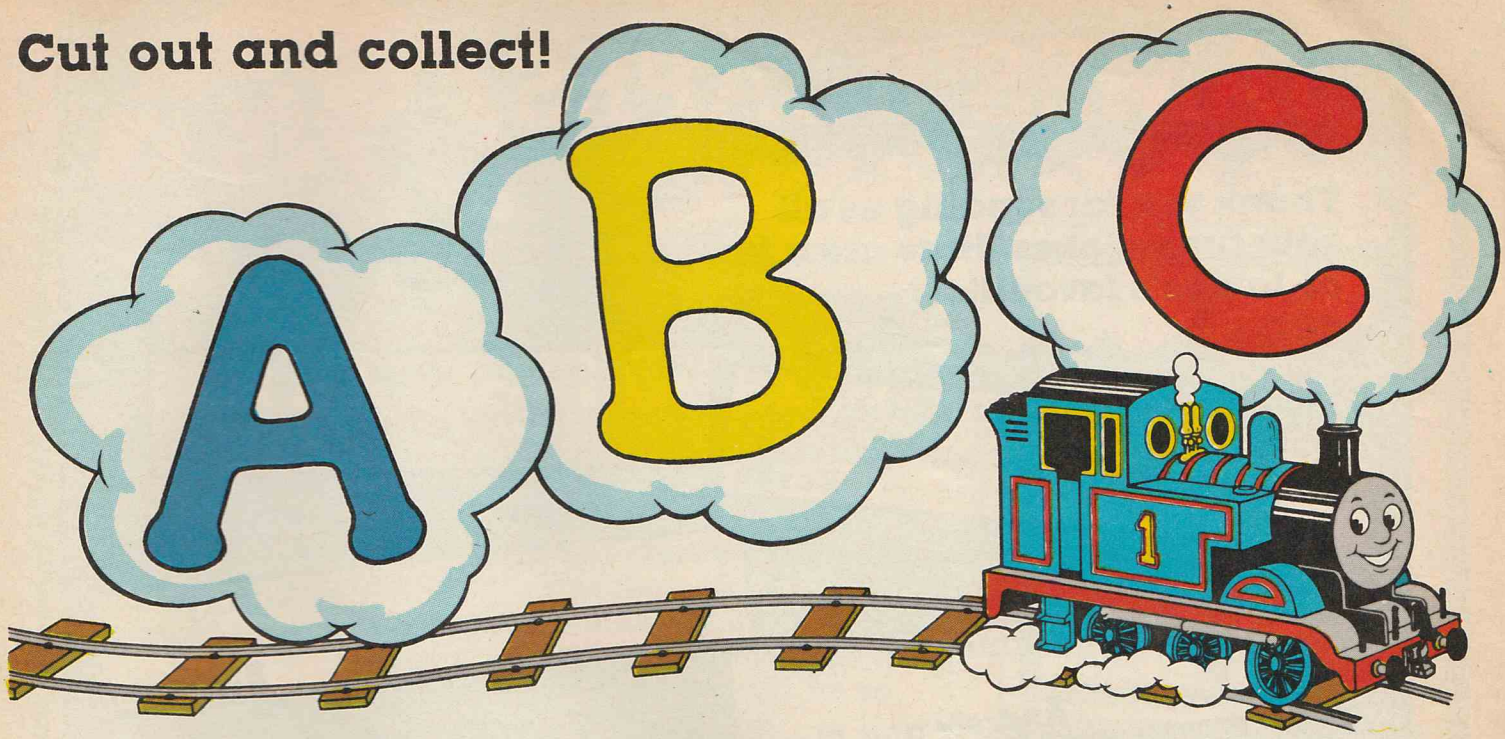


11. He climbed up on Thomas and peered into his tank. Then he came down and the Fat Controller clambered up to look too. Then he nearly fell off in surprise. "Gracious! Goodness me. How did Thomas get fish in his tank, Driver?" he asked. "We must have fished them from the river with our bucket," replied Thomas's driver.

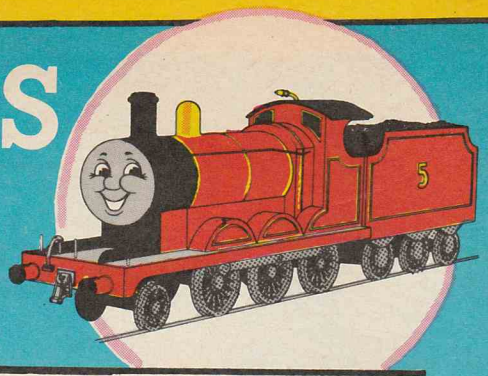
12. "So you and your driver have been fishing, Thomas, but fish do not suit you. We must get them out," said the Fat Controller. Then they all took turns fishing in Thomas's tank. That night they had a lovely supper of fish and chips. But Thomas was sad. "I won't do that again," he said. "Fishing is much too uncomfortable for engines."

Next issue: A busy day in the yard!

Cut out and collect!



JAMES'S JAPES



Thank you for sending us all your funny jokes. Here are a few of James's favourites!

What do you get if you dial 666?
An upside-down policeman!
Kevin.

Why do cows wear bells?
Because their horns don't work!
Lindsey.

What's the wettest animal in the world?
A rain deer!
Andrew and Fiona

What's yellow, brown and hairy?
Cheese on toast stuck to the carpet!
Brenden.

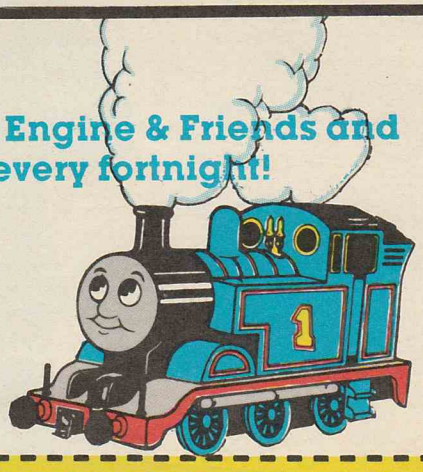
What do you call someone who steals rubber bands?
A rubber bandit!
Carly.

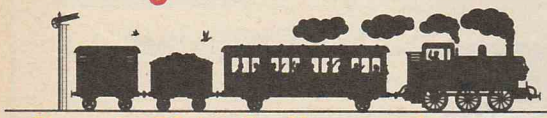
Why did the orange go to the doctor's?
Because he was not peeling well!
Howard Leighton- Smith.

News of a great offer!

Take out a subscription to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and have every issue sent straight to your home every fortnight!

What's more, if you do not already belong to the Thomas Club, you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting Club Pack will be sent to you too!





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Please allow 28 days for delivery.

***I should like to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* for one year and enclose cheque/postal order for £9 to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the Thomas Club if I do not already belong!**

Name....

Age .....**Birthday** .....

Address .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER PRIZES!

The sender of the best letter which is printed on this page each fortnight will be sent a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine Mug,** from *Bluebird*. So please don't forget to include your address if you write!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,

I started going to nursery school this week and I like it very much. One corner of the nursery is covered in pictures of all your engines. My favourite is James.

Love from

Christopher, aged 3.

I hope my engines helped you feel at home on your first day, Christopher!

HOBBIES!

Dear Fat Controller,

Do you have any hobbies? I like going to playschool, and going to the park with my mummy.

Love **Jenny** aged 3.

I love to go for long walks around the Island of Sodor in my spare time, and I am also very fond of a game of chess.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our birthday wishes go to: **Christopher McGaw, Aidan Glen, Katie Mee, Nima Majidzadeh, Andrew Richardson, Lorna Pickford, Naomi Wood, Martyn Christie** and **Michael Frost.**

Many happy returns to you!

If you'd like a birthday mentioned here, please send details at least 8 weeks beforehand!

JAMES'S JAPES!

How does Jack Frost go to work?

By icicle!

Laura.

What do you call a cow eating grass?

A lawn mooer!

Helen.

COMPETITION RESULTS!

The names of the winners of our **Merit Toys Colouring Competition** which appeared in issue **1** of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** will be printed in our next issue!

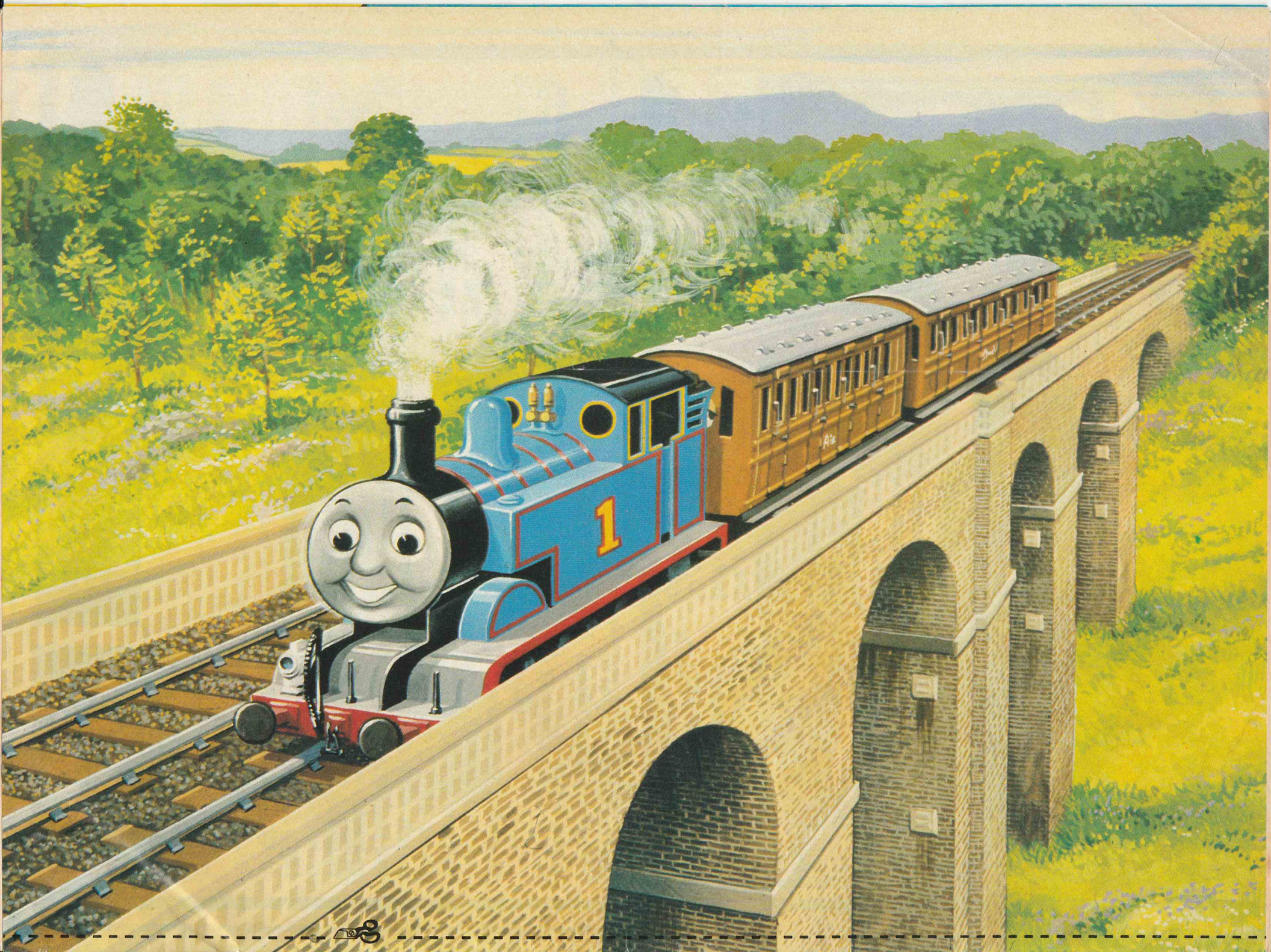
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.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